UNITED NATIONS DOCUMENTATION:

A BASIC GUIDE

Second Edition

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Center for the Study of Global Change

Indiana University Library
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Introduction

The primary purpose of this guide is to provide an overview of the documentation of the United Nations and a basic introduction to the bibliographic reference tools used for researching the UN. The guide briefly describes the major publications and indexes of the UN and lists those bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and manuals which can be used to identify secondary source materials about the UN in particular and international affairs in general. The guide is not intended to be a comprehensive survey to the documentation and study of the UN. What we have tried to accomplish is to provide a concise guide, explaining the pattern of UN documentation and identifying the reference materials which the researcher can turn to for more thorough and detailed information. This guide should be used as a kind of road map, pointing out reference tools to consult for additional assistance and help. Too often students and researchers are unaware that a particular index or handbook exists; which, had they known about it, might have saved hours of valuable time. By alerting students and researchers to the resources that are available, they can proceed to more specialized guides.

In preparing this guide, our aim was not only to acquaint the novice with the documentation of the UN, but to emphasize the abundance and scope of UN publications. Traditionally students have used UN documents only in the course of studying the organization as an institution. Unfortunately students do not ordinarily think of UN publications as a source of information when researching issues such as pollution, arms control, technology transfer, economic development, etc. Yet such topics transcend national borders and are global in nature. Regardless of whether one is investigating human rights in Eastern Europe or the environmental impact of mining in Africa, it is important to think of UN publications as a possible source of information.

UN publications can be useful in the study of other international organizations. There is a great deal of similarity in the activities and policies of regional organizations and the work of the UN. On issues that are planetary problems, such as seabed politics, development of the oceans and space, UN publications are especially useful. It is in those areas that the UN is in the forefront of research, and the work of the UN on those complicated issues will undoubtedly prompt worldwide debate. UN publications comprise an enormous body of information for research in all disciplines of the social sciences and humanities.

We hope that this guide proves to be a useful introduction to UN documents. We have tried to avoid overgeneralizing about UN publications, but at the same time keeping it as simple as possible. It is difficult to describe types of documents and their symbols without using the proper nomenclature. In the process of simplifying a complex subject matter, the danger always exists that critical exceptions or minor, but quite significant, details are left out. As brief as this guide is, we have tried to pay attention to the little details which often are overlooked. Though the documentation of the UN may seem complex and confusing at first glance, it is really not that difficult to master. But it does require that one get his hands dirty by spending time in a documents collection exploring, asking questions, and actually working with the materials. To understand how to use UN documents, one must use the documents. Librarians will be glad to give assistance and help, but at some point it becomes necessary to jump in and start working with the documents, learning as one attempts to track down a specific citation. For further information, we refer the reader to the handbook on the Web, prepared by the UN Dag Hammarskjold Library, *United Nations Documentation: Research Guide*, at http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide.
Organization of the United Nations

A knowledge of the structure of the United Nations and its processes and procedures serves as a useful tool in approaching the documents and in deciding which of the indexes or reference books would be most appropriate for the particular research topic. A brief outline of the organization is provided here. Further information is available in Basic Facts About the United Nations and Everyone's United Nations, by the UN Department of Public Information and in the United Nations Handbook, by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Discussions of the work of the United Nations each year are found in the Yearbook of the United Nations, by the UN Department of Public Information and in the Annual Review of United Nations Affairs, published by Oceana Publications, Dobbs Ferry, NY. A chart of the organizational structure of the United Nations System is printed in Basic Facts About the United Nations and in the United Nations Handbook. The chart is also available on the Web at: http://www.un.org/aboutun/chart.html.

Main Organs

The six principal organs were established by the United Nations Charter. Some of these organs have a number of committees, commissions and subsidiary bodies.

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Economic and Social Council
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court of Justice
- Secretariat (Headed by the Secretary-General)

Subsidiary Bodies

These are the semi-autonomous bodies, programs, and funds, which carry out much of the social and economic work of the United Nations. Some of these are: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Environment Programme. See Basic Facts About the United Nations or the United Nations Handbook for a more complete list.

Specialized and Related Agencies

The specialized agencies are separate autonomous bodies related to the United Nations by special agreements. Each one has its own organizational structure, budget, contributions and documentation. These agencies work with the United Nations and each other through the coordinating machinery of the Economic and Social Council. The specialized agencies report annually to the Economic and Social Council. Some of these agencies are: Food and Agriculture Organization, International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Book Group, and the World Health Organization. See Basic Facts About the United Nations or United Nations Handbook for a complete list. The International Atomic Energy Agency reports annually to the General Assembly and, as needed, to the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.
Types of publications

Parliamentary (mimeographed or mast-head) documents

The most basic and comprehensive documents of the United Nations are the working papers prepared for the General Assembly, the Security Council and other organs and for the various councils and committees. These documents consist of the provisional records of meetings, preliminary drafts of reports, reports, letters sent to the General Assembly or the Security Council concerning various questions, draft resolutions, resolutions, etc. They are issued before or during a session and can be printed rapidly for immediate use because of their mimeographed form. Some of them appear later in a final form in the Annexes of the *Official Records* or as sales publications.

These documents are distributed according to the following three classification categories:

- **General:** Documents receiving full circulation, sent to depository libraries.
- **Limited:** Documents of a temporary nature for which wide circulation is considered unnecessary, such as General Assembly draft resolutions and draft reports. They have an "L" before the serial number (last number) in the document symbol. These are not sent to depository libraries. Limited documents are available through the Official Document System (ODS) online database. This database is also called the Optical Disk System. Limited documents are also in the Readex Microprint or Microfiche edition of United Nations documents.
- **Participants:** Documents available only for participants in meetings and conferences.
- **Restricted:** Confidential documents. Not available to depository libraries. They usually have an “R” before the serial number (last number) in the document symbol.

Official records

These are the records of the meetings of the General Assembly and its main committees, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, Disarmament Commission, Trusteeship Council, Trade and Development Board of the Conference on Trade and Development, and the International Law Commission.

The records contain:

- The verbatim minutes or summary records of the meetings.
- The annexes include the important documents used in the discussion of the agenda items of each session. They were originally issued as parliamentary (mimeographed or mast-head) documents. The Economic and Social Council no longer issues annexes. In the Security Council *Official Records*, these documents are published as the quarterly supplements.
- The supplements include the annual reports of the subsidiary organs such as the United Nations Development Programme or the regional commissions, the resolutions, and the budget and financial reports of each session.
Sales publications

Major reports, yearbooks, and other series such as the *World Economic Survey* are issued as sales publications to provide for a wide distribution outside the United Nations. These publications have a sales number which usually appears on the back of the title page. The sales number indicates the language of the publication, the year published, the broad subject category in roman numerals and a number for the individual title. The sales number E.88.XIV.1 (*Human Rights; a Compilation of International Instruments*) shows that the publication was issued in English in 1988, in the human rights category, as the first publication in that category in 1988. The subject categories are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 0</td>
<td>&quot;O&quot; sales numbers, Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), and miscellaneous publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category I</td>
<td>General information and reference publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category II.A</td>
<td>Business, economics, science and technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category II.B</td>
<td>Economic development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category II.C</td>
<td>World economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category II.D</td>
<td>Trade, finance and commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category II.E</td>
<td>Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category II.F</td>
<td>Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category II.G</td>
<td>Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC/CEPAL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category II.H</td>
<td>Public administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category II.K</td>
<td>Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category II.L</td>
<td>Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category III.A</td>
<td>United Nations University (UNU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category III.B</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category III.C</td>
<td>United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category III.D</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category III.E</td>
<td>United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) publications until 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category III.H</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Category III.K - United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), beginning with 1987

Category III.M - United Nations Disaster Relief Agency (UNDRA)


Category III.P - International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

Category III.R - United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Category III.S - International Migration Organization (IMO)

Category IV - Social questions

Category V - International law

Category VII - Security Council and Peace-keeping Operations

Category VIII - Transport and communications

Category IX - Disarmament and atomic energy

Category X - International administration

Category XI - Narcotic drugs

Category XIII - Demography

Category XIV - Human rights

Category XV - United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) until 1987

Category XVI - Public finance and fiscal questions

Category XVII - International statistics

Category XX - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Categories 0, III, and XX, which cover the publications of the semi-autonomous bodies, are not part of the depository distribution. However, some of the UNIDIR publications are sent to depositories. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which is now a specialized agency, has its own sales publication numbers starting with 1991. These begin with UNIDO, for example, UNIDO.92.5.E, and category III.E is no longer used.

A sales number serves as an identifying number for the publication. Some library collections of UN sales publications are arranged by these sales numbers. In other instances a card file by sales number may be kept which refers to the shelving location of that particular item.
Periodicals

The United Nations publishes many periodicals. Among these are the *UN Chronicle*, *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* and *Law of the Sea Bulletin*. Section XI of this guide lists many of the periodicals. A number of the periodicals, which are offered for sale, do not have a sales number.

Treaties

The United Nations Treaty Series is described in Section XV.
Document Series Symbols

Most UN documents are assigned a document number (or symbol) made up of a number of elements that identify the issuing agency and the nature of the document. This symbol is usually found on the front cover, title page, or verso of the title page.

Examples:

A/(no.) - General document of the General Assembly
A/AC.105/(no.) - Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
A/AC.105/C.1/(no.) - Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee
A/CONF.151/(no.) - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The first component of the symbol reflects the principal organ or subsidiary organ issuing the document.

Examples:

A/ - General Assembly
DP/ - United Nations Development Programme
E/ - Economic and Social Council
S/ - Security Council
ST/ - Secretariat
TD/ - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP/ - United Nations Environment Programme

The second component indicates a committee, commission or special body of the main issuing body.

Examples:

-/AC./ - ad hoc committee
-/C./ - standing or main committee
-/CN./ - commission
-/CONF- - conference
-/GC./ - governing council
-/Sub./ - sub-commission
-/WG./ - working group
-/WP./ - working party
Other letters are added to the basic series symbols to show the nature of the document.

Examples:

- /INF/ - Information series
- /L. - Limited category of documents (not for deposit)
- /PET/ - Petitions
- /PV. - Verbatim records of meetings
- /RES/ - Resolutions
- /SR. - Summary records of meetings
- /WP. - Working paper

Modifications to the text of documents are indicated at the end of the document symbol.

Examples:

- /Add. - Addendum
- /Corr. - Corrigendum
- /Rev. - Revision

A new system for numbering the documents of the General Assembly was started with the 31st session, 1976. Instead of the consecutive numbering as had been previously used (example: A/9125), the documents are in separate series by session.

Examples:

A/31/[no.]
A/32/[no.]
A/C.1/31/[no.]
A/C.2/31/[no.]

In 1978 the symbols of the Economic and Social Council documents were revised to include the year.

Examples:

E/1978/[no.]
E/1978/C.1/[no.]

In 1994 the symbols of the Security Council documents were revised to include the year.

Examples:

S/1994/[no.]
S/1995/[no.]
For a list of document series symbols with a subject-title index, see:


New document series symbols are listed in The United Nations Documents Index, which is described in Section VIII.

Some citations to UN documents give these document symbols as the only identifying piece of information. Many libraries arrange their collections of United Nations documents and publications by these symbols. Libraries using a different arrangement will often keep a card file by document number, which refers to the shelving arrangement.
Documents Not Automatically Received by United Nations Depository Libraries

Current Meeting Records

The provisional verbatim records of the plenary meetings of the Security Council and the provisional summary records of plenary meetings of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) are not sent to depository libraries. These records can be printed out from the Official Document System/Optical Disk System (ODS) online database. ECOSOC meetings take a long time to appear, often coming out in French first, with the English edition appearing later. Security Council provisional records are often found in the Readex microprint/ microfiche edition of UN documents and publications. Some of the summary records of ECOSOC also appear in the Readex fiche. These records are eventually printed in final form and published in the Official Records of these bodies and sent to depository libraries. The Security Council meetings in final form are issued separately and should be bound together for the Official Records.

Regional Economic Commissions

Mimeographed documents and non-sales publications of a regional commission are not sent automatically as part of the depository materials to libraries. A library receives the mimeographed documents of the regional commission for the area in which the library is located. A library can also request, at the time of its depository designation, to receive certain documents, such as those in Spanish from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sometimes libraries can request these documents individually from the particular commission. The Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific require a library to set up an exchange agreement in order to be able to request their documents.

Some of the regional commission documents can be found in the Readex Microprint/Microfiche edition. They are also available on microfilm from the United Nations. The annual reports of the regional commissions are published as supplements to the Economic and Social Council Official Records.

International Court of Justice

The publications of the International Court of Justice are not sent as part of the depository materials to the UN depository libraries. They are distributed free of charge to the governments of the states entitled to appear before the Court and to major law libraries throughout the world. In addition, many other libraries subscribe to these publications on a standing order basis. Some publications are reproduced in the Readex Microfiche edition of UN documents and publications. The court issues a catalogue of publications, which is brought up-to-date as of January 1 each year, and a chapter on the publications of the Court appears in the International Court of Justice Yearbook. The report of the International Court of Justice to the General Assembly, issued annually, is published as a supplement to the Official Records. The Bibliography of the International Court of Justice, issued annually, contains bibliographical references about the Court received by the Registry of the Court.

Earlier bibliographies are:


**Semi-autonomous Bodies**

The publications of some agencies, such as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Environmental Programme, United Nations University (UNU) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are not available through the depository status. Libraries must request them separately from the agencies or purchase them from specific dealers. The UNICEF parliamentary documents in the series E/ICEF/-, are included in the depository materials, as are those of the United Nations Environment Programme UNEP/- and the United Nations Development Programme DP/-.

**Specialized and Related Agencies: ILO, WHO, UNESCO, etc.**

The publications and documents of the specialized agencies are not sent as part of the United Nations depository arrangement. The documents and publications of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) were part of the UN depository system until the organization became a specialized agency in 1985 and set up its own depository program.
Documentation in Microform

United Nations documentation, originally deposited in paper copy, can be converted to microform if the substitution does not limit public use of the documents. Lack of shelving space is often the reason libraries may choose this as an option for some of their documents.

The *Official Records* of some of the main organs of the United Nations, the *Treaties Series*, publications of the International Court of Justice, and various yearbooks and serials are currently available on microfiche from the United Nations. The UN issues an up-to-date price list of the microfiche, which is available on request from the United Nations Publications, Sales Section; email: publications@un.org or toll-free telephone: 1-800-253-9646.


Another microform series found in many libraries is the Readex comprehensive microprint and microfiche collection of United Nations documents published by the Newsbank/Readex Corporation, formerly the Readex Microprint Corporation. This is an extensive collection of the parliamentary (mimeographed) documents, the *Official Records* of the main organs, and the *Journal of the United Nations*. It is arranged by year and document series symbol. Most of the "Limited" category of documents are included in this collection. Secretariat (ST/-) documents, however, were not reproduced in this set until 1982. The list of documents in this collection is: *United Nations Documents, 1946-1960: Checklist of the Readex Microprint Edition*, published in 1978 by Readex Microprint Corporation. Two additional volumes cover 1961-1965 (1978) and 1966-1970 (1980). These are updated by the annual checklists issued by the company. New microfiche shipments are distributed monthly to the subscribing libraries. A CD-ROM index to the microfiche is sent free to subscribing libraries to accompany the monthly shipments of microfiche. The index is also available on the web as AccessUN. Earlier indexing is being prepared and can be purchased by libraries. It will eventually cover back to 1946. The index covers publications and periodical articles, in addition to the parliamentary documents. Readex has made an abridged collection of microfiche available to smaller libraries and a special collection available to law libraries.

The microfiche collection of the *Index to International Statistics (IIS)*, issued by the Congressional Information Service, includes UN documents and publications that have been selected for their statistics. Many libraries subscribe to this collection.
United Nations Depository Libraries

The United Nations distributes its documents and publications worldwide through a system of depository libraries. These libraries receive automatically, according to their specific needs, the sales publications, treaty series, official records, and public information material. Those libraries which can work with a larger volume of material receive the documents in the "General" category of distribution. The "Limited," "Participants only," and "Restricted" documents are not included in this deposit of materials. The provisional (current) meeting records of the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council are also not included in the deposit. Sometimes documents in the “general” category are not available for distribution to depository libraries. The United Nations Documents Index, ST/LIB/SER.N/-, published by the UN Dag Hammarskjold Library, specifies those documents and publications which are not available for depository distribution. The Instructions for Depository Libraries Receiving United Nations Material, Mar. 5, 1995, ST/LIB/13/Rev. 5, lists the materials that are available for deposit. These instructions are also available on the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/deplib/stlib13.htm.

A worldwide directory of depositories is found in the document, List of Depository Libraries Receiving United Nations Material, May 2001, ST/LIB/12/Rev. 17. It gives the names and addresses of all UN depository libraries, the year each became a depository, the extent of the material deposited in each library, and the e-mail and internet addresses. This list with updates is available on the Internet at: http://www.un.org/MoreInfo/Deplib/index.html.

The depository libraries in the United States are listed below. In addition to depository libraries, there are numerous standing order libraries which also receive publications for sale and the documents in the "General" category of distribution. These libraries, through the standing order arrangement, will receive the documents and publications as quickly as a depository library. The Directory of Government Document Collections & Librarians, by the American Library Association, Government Documents Round Table, 7th ed., Bethesda, MD: Congressional Information Service, 1997, lists other libraries in the United States which acquire United Nations documentation, as well as those that are depositories.

California
- Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles
- Stanford University Libraries, Stanford
- University of California, Doe Library, Berkeley
- University of California, University Research Library, Los Angeles

Colorado
- University of Colorado Library, Boulder

Connecticut
- Yale University Library, New Haven

District of Columbia
- Library of Congress, Washington

Florida
- Florida International University, Steven and Dorothea Green Library, Miami
- Florida State University Library, Tallahassee
- Nova Southeastern University Law Library, Fort Lauderdale

Hawaii
University of Hawaii Library, Honolulu

Illinois
- Library of International Relations, Chicago
- Northwestern University Library, Evanston
- University of Illinois Library, Urbana

Indiana
- Indiana University Libraries, Bloomington
- Indiana University, School of Law Library, Indianapolis

Iowa
- University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City

Kansas
- University of Kansas, Anschutz Library, Lawrence

Maryland
- John Hopkins University, The Milton S. Eisenhower Library, Baltimore

Massachusetts
- Boston Public Library, Boston
- Harvard College Library, Cambridge

Michigan
- University of Michigan, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, Ann Arbor

Minnesota
- University of Minnesota, Wilson Library, Minneapolis

Mississippi
- Mississippi State University, Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State

Missouri
- Southwest Missouri State University, Meyer Library, Springfield

Nevada
- University of Nevada-Reno Library, Reno

New Jersey
- Princeton University Library, Princeton
- Seton Hall University, The Walsh Library, South Orange

New Mexico
- Farmington Public Library, Farmington

New York
- Columbia University Law Library, New York
- Cornell University Library, Ithaca
- Council on Foreign Relations, New York
– New York University, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York
– St. John’s University School of Law Library, Jamaica

North Carolina
– University of North Carolina, Walter Davis Library, Chapel Hill

Ohio
– Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland

Pennsylvania
– University of Pennsylvania, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, Philadelphia
– University of Pittsburgh, Hillman Library, Pittsburgh

Rhode Island
– Brown University, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Providence

Tennessee
– Vanderbilt University, Central Library, Nashville

Texas
– University of Texas, Perry-Castaneda Library, Austin

Utah
– University of Utah, Marriott Library, Salt Lake City

Virginia
– University of Virginia, Alderman Library, Charlottesville

Washington
– University of Washington Libraries, Seattle
Indexes to United Nations Documentation

Current


This comprehensive index provides full bibliographic description of UN documents and publications received by the Library from UN offices throughout the world. Some citations have been prepared by the UN Library at Geneva. The index includes major reports and studies, meeting resolutions, decisions, draft resolutions, and miscellaneous documents. It includes all categories of documentation including those that are restricted in their distribution. The citations are indexed by author (personal, corporate, and conference names), title, and subject. It also includes a list of official records, sales publications by sales number, UN maps in UN documents, UN sheet maps, and a list of newly issued document series symbols. This index is available online as UNBISnet.


This is the online catalog of UN publications and documents indexed by the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the Library of the UN Office at Geneva by author, title, subject, and UN document number. It also includes the non-UN publications held in the collection of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library. The database covers from 1979 to the present. Extensive help screens provide good explanations for searching strategies. Terms for searching by topical subject are taken from the UNBIS Thesaurus. New York: United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library, 1995, (ST/LIB/40/Rev.1). The thesaurus is also online at a test site available from the Dag Hammarskjöld Library’s Web page: http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl. A link is also provided on the UNBISnet main page, http://unbisnet.un.org. Searching in UNBISnet by “Topical Subjects—Alphabetic” will bring up a list of similar terms that are from the UNBIS Thesaurus.

UNBISnet also contains two additional sections:

- Voting records: gives voting information for all resolutions which were adopted for the General Assembly beginning with the 38th session, 1983-, and the Security Council beginning with the first year, 1946.
- Indexes to Speeches: provides citations to speeches made in the General Assembly beginning with the 38th session, 1983-, the Security Council beginning with the 38th year, 1983-, the Economic and Social Council, beginning with 1983-, and the Trusteeship Council, beginning with the 15th Special Session, 1982- 61st session, 1994. This index is also available on CD-ROM as UNBIS Plus on CD-ROM.


This online database, available by subscription, includes United Nations documents and publications issued since 1950. Plans are to continue the coverage back to 1946. It also includes citations to articles in UN periodicals and citations to the bilateral and multilateral treaties in the UN Treaty Series. The database also contains the full text resolutions from the General Assembly, 36th session, 1981- ; Security Council, 1974- ; and the Economic and Social Council, 1982-. The full text of selected provisional verbatim documents which contain the voting records of the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions are also provided. This database is also available on CD-ROM as the Index to United Nations
Documents and Publications. Most of the documents (not publications) included in the index are available in a microfiche collection from Readex.


ODS, also called Optical Disk System, is an online system providing the electronic version of parliamentary documents issued by many UN bodies since 1993 in all the official languages of the UN. Resolutions of the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, and Trusteeship Council are provided back to 1946. It is presently available by single password use at the Web address: http://www.ods.un.org. Although it shows subject searching capability, it is best used only as a source for printing out a document by entering the document number. Other UN indexes, such as UNBISnet and AccessUN can be used for subject searching. ODS does not include sales publications, the United Nations Treaty Series, press releases (which are on the UN web site), public information materials, and informally published working papers without the masthead, such as conference room papers.


Each index is divided into two parts: subject index and index to speeches by country or corporate name, speaker, and subject. A voting chart of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly has been included each year since the 30th session, 1975. A voting chart for the Security Council begins in 1976. The section, "Numerical List of Documents", listing all documents issued during a session, including a list of the supplements to the Official Records, is found at the end of each index. The earlier years of the volumes listed here were originally issued in the mimeographed document series as Disposition of Agenda Items. They were reprinted by Kraus Reprint Co. (Millwood, NY). The Check List of United Nations Documents volumes were also reprinted as part of the Index to Proceedings series by Kraus Reprint Co.

The individual series are:

- Index to Proceedings of the Economic and Social Council. 1950- . (ST/LIB/SER.B/E-).
  Coverage from 1946-1949 is available in the series, Check List of United Nations Documents, Part 5, Nos. 1-3.

- Index to Proceedings of the General Assembly. 1946- . (ST/LIB/SER.B/A-).

  Coverage from 1946-1949 is available in the series, Check List of United Nations Documents, Part 2, No. 1.

  (ST/LIB/SER.B/T-).
  Coverage from 1947-1949 is available in the series, Check List of United Nations Documents, Part 4, Nos.1-3.

Numerical list and subject index to the resolutions of the following:


The catalogue contains an alphabetical list of publications, a subject index, and sections on the International Court of Justice, Treaty Series, electronic products and databases, and periodicals. Also available online at http://www.un.org/publications. The web site provides a link to publications for the Model United Nations.

Retrospective


This index provides the most comprehensive listing of United Nations documents for this period. The documents of the specialized agencies (UNESCO, WHO, etc.) were included in it until 1962. The UNDI was issued monthly with an annual subject index from 1950 to 1962. Each citation was assigned an item number which was referred to in the index. From 1963-1973 the arrangement was by document series symbol instead of item number. The monthly issues were cumulated into two parts:

Cumulative checklist: arranged by document number with full bibliographical information given. Documents with no symbol were entered by title under the issuing body. It contained a list of periodicals currently published by the United Nations.

Cumulative index: author and subject index to the documents cited in the checklist. Some title headings were also included. The document series symbol was given, so that the entry could be found in the cumulative checklist. The sales number or citation to the Official Records was also given when applicable. An asterisk (*) was used in the index to indicate preliminary or provisional documents not available for general distribution or deposit. The cumulative index also contained the following:

- List by symbol only of all United Nations documents received by the UN Library that year indicating the languages in which they were issued.
– List of documents republished in the supplements and annexes to the Official Records.

– List of sales publications issued that year.

– List of new document series symbols.


The annual indexes to the *UNDI* from 1950-1962 were merged into this cumulated index. The year and the item number are cited. The annual volume of the *UNDI* must then be consulted for the complete citation.


Issued ten times a year in three separate series. Series A and B were computer produced. Series C was prepared manually. In 1974 this index completely replaced the *United Nations Documents Index (UNDI).* The three series are listed below:


Refers by specific subjects to United Nations documents and publications, giving type of document, personal or corporate author, date and document series symbol or sales number. It is selective in coverage, excluding such documents as those of the committees of the General Assembly which appear later as sales publications or in other series, the mimeographed documents of the regional commissions and volumes of the United Nations Treaty Series. Annual cumulations for 1975-1978 have been issued.


Provides information on the participation of Member States in United Nations affairs by referring to documents submitted, statements in debates and voting. Each entry contains name of country, type of action, subject covered and document series symbol or sales number. This series excludes the same types of documents as described under Series A. Annual cumulations for 1975-1978 are available.


Contains the bibliographical description of all documents and publications of the United Nations and the International Court of Justice. Series C is like a semi-annual cumulation in that the ten issues per year are divided into pairs:

– Issues 1 and 6: General assembly (A/- symbols)

– Issues 2 and 7: Economic and Social Council (E/- symbols)
− Issues 3 and 8: Security Council (S/- symbols), Trusteeship Council (T/- symbols), publications of the International Court of Justice and sales publications

− Issues 4 and 9: Secretariat (ST/- symbols) and the regional commissions (E/CEPAL/-), (E/CN.12/-), (E/ECA/-), (E/CN.14/), (E/ECE/), (E/ECWA/-), and (E/ESCAP/) (E/CN.11/-) symbols).

− Issue 5 and 10: Documents in all other series (such as those of UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP, etc.) Also contains the consolidated list of periodicals.

Each issue contains a list of the sales publications included in the issue and a broad subject key to the documents listed. A list of the documents republished in the *Official Records* or elsewhere is also included in those issues in which they are referred.

**UNDEX Series "C" Cumulative Edition, 1974-1978.**


− Volume 4: 1978. (All agencies.)

These volumes cumulate the forty issues of Series C published from 1974-1978.


This comprehensive checklist provided full bibliographic description of United Nations publications and documents with subject, personal/corporate name, and title indexes in each issue. Other items included a list of documents republished, new document series symbols, maps included in documents, and a list of sheet maps. At first issued 10 times a year, UNDOC was then issued quarterly from 1987-1996. Annual cumulations were available in paper until 1983. From 1984-1996 the cumulations were issued on microfiche.


This is the interim publication between UNDOC and the *United Nations Documents Index*. It is arranged in five sections: Documents and publications arranged by document symbol, official records, sales publications arranged by sales number, United Nations maps included in UN documents, and United Nations sheet maps. There is no index.

Volume one is a catalogue of sales publications arranged by agency, giving the sales and document number. Volume two contains the keyword index covering one or more major subject words appearing in the title, a title index and a sales number index.

*KWIC Index to United Nations Publications (Current to July 1, 1988).* San Diego, Documents Department, University of California, San Diego Library, 1988.


Bibliographical Guides to United Nations Documentation


This guide describes the organization of the United Nations and its documents and publications. The section on reference and information work covers searching for voting records and UN resolutions and the basic tools needed for model UN sessions, as well as important web sites. Other chapters deal with United Nations documentation in microform and the proper methods for citing UN documents and publications.


Designed primarily for those researchers new to UN documentation, this guide provides an overview of the types of publications and documents issued, including parliamentary documents, resolutions, meeting records, sales publications, and press releases. It covers document symbols, research tools, indexes, speeches, voting information, and special topics: disarmament, human rights, international law, and peacekeeping. This is a comprehensive guide to UN documentation, and provides links to a number of the resources being described, such as the resolutions.


This publication describes the function and method of operation of UN bodies and the documents they produce. Also gives suggestions for filing and maintenance of these documents, methods of claiming, and descriptions of the indexes.


This list covers reference sources on UN documentation, which can be used for setting up a core reference collection. It includes publications on the history of the UN and its structure and activities, as well as catalogs, indexes, dictionaries, and information sources on economic, social, statistical, and legal topics.


Online bibliographies have been prepared on the following topics: UN Charter, UN Secretary-General, water resources in the Middle East, Security Council, UN reform, peacekeeping operations, and a bibliography of resources in French, Les Nations Unies: Une Bibliographie des Ressources en Francais. The bibliographies primarily contain monographs published from 1945 to about 1995 or 1996.

These pathfinder bibliographies identify major current publications of the UN system organizations. Topics covered include: communications, culture, disarmament, environment, human rights, international security and peacekeeping, outer space, and population.


This Web site contains resources for students and teachers about member countries of the UN and information on topics such as poverty, human rights, peace education, indigenous peoples, cities of the world, and technology. Included on this site are InfoNation, which can be used to select data for up to seven countries for comparison, and Country at a Glance, which provides a few basic statistics for individual countries one at a time. A model UN discussion area (MUNDA) is also located on this site, which includes links to the starter’s kit and online resources about the model UN.

Other


**General Guides**


Reference Tools to the United Nations


**Constitutional Sources**


**Yearbooks on International Affairs**


Bibliography of Additional Sources about the United Nations


*United Nations Blue Book Series:*


Weiss, Thomas G. and Leon Gordenker, eds. *NGOs, the UN, and Global Governance*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 1996.


United Nations Periodicals and Series


Some of the serials are indexed in the United Nations Document Index, AccessUN, and UNBISnet. PAIS International (Public Affairs Information Service) serves as an index to a number of them. Many of these periodicals, however, are not indexed, and each issue must be searched for appropriate articles. Some of the periodicals are included in the microfiche collection of the Index to International Statistics and are indexed in Statistical Universe.

The following selected list shows the variety of topics covered. Several periodicals, which have ceased publication, are also included.

* Africa Index: Selected Articles on Socio-economic Developments. 1971-. 3 times a year. (Economic Commission for Africa.)

* Africa Recovery. 1987-. Quarterly. (Africa Recovery Programme, Department of Public Information.)


* ATAS News. 1988-. 2 or 3 times a year. (Centre for Science and Technology for Development.)

* Bulletin. 1978-. Monthly. (Division for Palestinian Rights.)


* Bulletin on Narcotics. 1949-. 1 or 2 times a year. (Division of Narcotic Drugs.)


Cooperation South. 1985- . 3 times a year. (United Nations Development Programme.) Continues TCDC news.


Current Bibliographical Information. 1971-1993. Monthly. (Dag Hammarskjold Library.) Later bibliographical citations are available through UNBISnet, by searching the non-UN publications portion of the database.

Decolonization. 1974- . Irregular. (Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization.


Development Information Abstracts. 1981-1993. 6 times a year. (Department of Technical Cooperation for Development.)

Devindex Africa. 1980- . 3 times a year. (Economic Commission for Africa. Pan African Documentation and Information System.)


Disabled Persons Bulletin. 1982- . Irregular. (Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.)

Disarmament. 1978- . 3 times a year. (Department of Disarmament Affairs.)

Disarmament Newsletter. 1983- . 6 times a year. (Department of Disarmament Affairs.)


Habitat News. 1979-. 3 times a year. (Centre for Human Settlements.)

Human Rights Newsletter. 1988-. Quarterly. (Centre for Human Rights.)

Industrializacion y Desarrollo Tecnologico. 1985-. Semi-annual. (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Industry and Development. 1978-. Semi-annual. (United Nations Industrial Development Organization.)


International Review of Criminal Policy. 1952-. Annual. (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.)

International Rivers and Lakes. 1982-. Semi-annual. (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.)

Journal of Development Planning. 1969-. Annual. (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.)


Notes and Documents. 1976-1994. Number of issues varies. (Centre against Apartheid.) Continues: Unit on Apartheid Notes and Documents.

Objective: Justice. 1969-. Semi-annual. (Department of Public Information.)


Palestine Refugees Today. 1960-. Number of issues varies. (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.)


Population Newsletter. 1968-. Semi-annual. (Population Division.)


Regional Development Dialogue. 1980-. Semi-annual. (Centre for Regional Development.)

Rural Progress. 1977-. Semi-annual. (Economic Commission for Africa.)


Social Development Newsletter. 1971-1995. Irregular. (Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.)

Social Development Newsletter. 1980-2000. 2 or 3 times a year. (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.)

Statistical Journal. 1982-. Quarterly. (Published by IOS Press for Economic Commission for Europe.)

Statistical Newsletter. 1975-. Quarterly. (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.)

Statistical Newsletter. 1960-. Semi-annual. (Economic Commission for Africa.)


Transnationals: Quarter Newsletter. 1989-. Quarterly. (Centre on Transnational Corporations.)


UN Chronicle. 1964-. Quarterly. (Department of Public Information.) Continues: UN Monthly Chronicle.


UNIDIR Newsletter. 1988-. Quarterly. (United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.)


UNV News. 1988-. Irregular. (United Nations Volunteers.)

Update. 1998-. Quarterly. (United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime.)

Update. 1990-. Quarterly. (Centre for Science and Technology for Development.)


Women 2000. 1986-. 3 times a year. (Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.)

Women News. 1986-1990. 8 times a year. (Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.)

Youth Information Bulletin. 1969-. Quarterly. (Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.)
Indexes and Journals about the UN

An important source of secondary material about the UN is journal literature. Journal articles are especially useful when researching current activities of the United Nations. Secondly, it is often possible to find journal articles focusing on specific events or issues, or on a particular agency of the UN.

In this section, those indexes, compact disks, and journals most likely to contain information about the UN are identified. Unfortunately, there is no single index which a researcher can go to for information about the UN and international organizations. When looking for journal literature about the United Nations, it is best to examine a number of indexes and abstracting services. Although there will undoubtedly be some duplication among indexes, each index will contain items not found in the others. To be thorough, it is necessary to check a variety of indexes. The time spent consulting indexes usually pays off in the end. The more time one spends using indexes, the easier they become to use. Knowing how to use indexes effectively is the key to subject bibliography.

Indexes

Indexes and abstracting services are crucial tools for finding journal articles. Using the many indexes now available on CD-ROM or online can save you time and effort. The following indexes are the most useful for finding journal articles pertaining to the United Nations.


This serial bibliography and abstracting service provides excellent coverage of articles, book and film reviews, and dissertations in history, political science, and the social sciences. Always include this index when doing historical research. It is available on CD-ROM and as an online database.

_Humanities Index_. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1974- . Supersedes in part the _Social Sciences and Humanities Index_.

This quarterly index to English-language journals in the humanities organizes entries by author and subject. This index covers the major history journals. It is available on CD-ROM and as an online database.

_Index to Legal Periodicals_. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1908- .

This work indexes articles appearing in legal periodicals of the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. Indexes are provided for authors, subjects, book reviews, and cases. This index should be used in almost every literature search on elections. Because the _Index to Legal Periodicals_ is one of the oldest legal indexes, it also can be used for historical research. It is available on CD-ROM and as an online database.


This index abstracts articles from English-language and foreign-language political science journals. The abstracts of the English-language articles appear in English, and the abstracts of the foreign-language articles appear in French. _International Political Science Abstracts_ is a reliable source of information on foreign-language articles. Even if you are not interested in foreign-language material, check to see if this index contains citations that have not appeared in other indexes. _International Political Science Abstracts_ is available on CD-ROM and as an online database.
PAIS International in Print. New York: PAIS, 1915-.  
This monthly subject guide to American public policy and public affairs continues the PAIS Bulletin, formerly the Public Affairs Information Service Bulletin. It indexes government publications, books, and periodical literature, including the National Journal and CQ Researcher. It is available on CD-ROM and as an online database called PAIS International. A full-text version, called PAIS Select, is issued as a CD-ROM.

Social Sciences Citation Index. Philadelphia: Institute for Scientific Information, 1973-.  
The Social Sciences Citation Index indexes more journals than any other index in the social sciences. Works cited include books, journal articles, dissertations, reports, and proceedings. It includes four separate indexes: a source (author) index, a corporate index, a key word subject index, and a citation index. Items appearing in the citation index have been cited in footnotes or bibliographies in the social sciences. The Social Sciences Citation Index has several unique features that are helpful. The corporate index allows the user to identify publications issued by particular organizations, such as the Brookings Institution. The source and citation indexes can be used to identify the writings of a particular scholar who has written extensively on the subject, and to identify other researchers who have cited these writings. The Social Sciences Citation Index is published three times a year and cumulated annually and quinquennially. It is available on CD-ROM and as an online database. The online database is available through the Web of Science.

Social Sciences Index. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1974-. Supersedes in part the Social Sciences and Humanities Index.  
This quarterly index covers articles that are found in the major English-language political science and other social science journals. Every literature search on elections, regardless of the topic, should include this index. It is available on CD-ROM and as an online database.

Sociological Abstracts is the major abstracting service in the field of sociology. It indexes journals, conference papers, dissertations, and book reviews. The author and subject indexes are cumulated annually. It is available on CD-ROM and as an online database.

Databases  
Scholars of elections will find the following online services especially helpful. These services allow the researcher to obtain information on candidates, campaign contributions and financing, government documents, and information on campaigns and elections. The major online database providing information on elections are listed below:

CONGRESSIONAL UNIVERSE. Washington, DC: Congressional Information Service.  
This online database provides a section called Inside Washington, where the National Journal is indexed. The database provides information on campaign contributions and a member directory. A section called List of Links contains information on political parties. An abstracting service for congressional committee hearings, committee prints, reports, documents, and public laws, CONGRESSIONAL UNIVERSE includes the full texts of bills and regulations. This database is by subscription only, so check to see if your library subscribes.

DOW JONES INTERACTIVE. New York: Dow Jones Company.
Dow Jones Interactive on the Web includes a section, Business Newsstand, which provides newswires from major newspapers and magazines including the *Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and Washington Post*. The Publications Library section contains more than 6,000 newswires, newspapers, and magazines and can be used for in-depth research. The Web Center section provides links to news, corporate, industry, and government sites. This database is available by subscription only, so check to see if your library subscribes.

LEXIS/NEXIS Academic Universe. Dayton, OH: Reed Elsevier Inc.
This database provides full text to news, biographical information, Roper Center for Public Opinion Research polls and surveys, business, legal and reference materials. It includes data from the Federal Election Commission and analyses from news transcripts from CNN, ABC, and NPR. LEXIS/NEXIS includes the full texts of the *National Journal, Congressional Record*, and the *Almanac of American Politics*. Numerous legal journals also can be accessed. This database is available by subscription only, so check to see if your library subscribes.

**Journals**

*American Journal of International Law.* New York: American Society of International Law, 1907-.


*British Yearbook of International Law.* London: H. Frowde: Hodder and Stoughton, 1921-.


*Cooperation and Conflict.* Stockholm, Sweden: Nordic Committee for the Study of International Politics, 1965-.

*Diplomatic History.* Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources Inc., 1977-.

*European Security.* London: F. Cass, 1992-.


*International Affairs.* London: Royal Institute of International Affairs, 1922-.

*International Interactions.* London: Gordon and Breach, 1974-.

*International Journal on World Peace.* New York: Professors World Peace Academy, 1984-.


International Studies Quarterly. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1957-.

Journal of Conflict Resolution. Ann Arbor, MI: Dept. of Journalism, University of Michigan, 1957-.

Journal of International Affairs. New York: School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, 1952-.


Nationalism and Ethnic Politics. London: Frank Cass, 1995-.

Orbis. Philadelphia: Foreign Policy Research Institute, 1957-.

Pacific Affairs. Vancouver: University of British Columbia, 1928-.

Peace and Change. Sonoma, CA: California State College, 1972-.


Revue de Droit International de Sciences Diplomatiques et Politiques. Geneva: A. Sottile, 1923-.

Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs. London: Round Table, Ltd., 1910-.


World Policy Journal. New York: World Policy Institute, 1983-.

World Today. London: Oxford University Press, 1945-.

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The United Nations, through cooperation with national statistical offices, publishes numerous statistical series which provide data by country on such topics as population, marriage, migration, industry, manufacturing, energy, trade, transportation and national accounts. Most of these series are issued by the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the regional commissions. The Directory of International Statistics, Vol. 1, New York: Statistical Office (United Nations), 1982, (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 56, Rev. 1), describes the international statistical services of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.

The Index to International Statistics (IIS), Washington, DC: Congressional Information Service, 1983-. , provides excellent coverage of these series. The index, issued quarterly with annual cumulations, is part of the licensed database, Statistical Universe. The database includes American Statistics Index, (covering United States government documents) and Statistical Reference Index, (covering publications of United States private organizations and state government agencies) as well. A microfiche collection of the statistical sources covered in IIS has been prepared by the Congressional Information Service.

The following is a selection of titles available from the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. They are arranged by broad subject category. Those series which contain both economic and social data are listed under the "General" category. Those which contain only economic data are found under "Economic Affairs". Titles covering only social data are under the heading, “Social Affairs.” Some of these yearbooks are available online on the Web site of the issuing agency.

**General**


* Asia-Pacific in Figures. 1987-. Annual. (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.)


* Statistical Yearbook. 1948-. Annual. (Statistical Office.) Also available on CD-ROM.


Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region. 1985-. Annual. (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.) Continues: Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ECWA Region, 1978-1984.

Trends in Europe and North America. 1995-. Annual. (Economic Commission for Europe.)


Children/Youth

Progress of Nations. 1993-. Annual. (United Nations Children’s Fund.)

State of the World's Children. 1980-. Annual. (Published by Oxford University Press for United Nations Children's Fund.)

Statistical Indicators on Youth. 1985. (Statistical Office.)


Demography

Demographic Handbook for Africa. 1968-. Irregular. (Economic Commission for Africa.)


State of World Population. 1979-. Annual. (United Nations Population Fund.)

Development (Economic and Social)

Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics. 1967-. Irregular. (Conference on Trade and Development.)

Human Development Report. 1990-. Annual. (Published by Oxford University Press for the United Nations Development Programme.)
Least Developed Countries: Report. 1984-. Annual. (Conference on Trade and Development.)


UNCTAD Statistical Pocketbook. 1984-. Quinquennial. (Conference on Trade and Development.)

Disabled Persons

Disability Statistics Compendium. 1990. (Statistical Office.)

Economic Affairs


Economic Survey of Europe. 1948-. Annual. (Economic Commission for Europe.)


Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean. 1989-. Annual. (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.)


Energy


Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles. 1977/80-. Biennial. (Statistical Office.)


Environment


Environmental Data Report. 1987-. Biennial. (Published by Basil Blackwell for the United Nations Environment Programme.)


State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific. 1995-. Quinquennial. (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with the Asian Development Bank.)

World Resources. 1986-. Biennial. (Published by Oxford University Press and prepared by the World Resources Institute in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Development Programme.)

Finance/National Accounts


National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region. 1987-. Annual. (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.)

World Investment Directory. 1992-. Irregular. (Centre on Transnational Corporations)

World Investment Report. 1991-. Annual. (Conference on Trade and Development.)

Housing/Human Settlements


Industry


Annual Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe. 1973-. Annual. (Economic Commission for Europe.)


Mass Media

World Media Handbook. 1990-. Irregular. (Department of Public Information.)

Social Affairs


Humanitarian Report. 1997-. Annual. (Department of Humanitarian Affairs.)

Report on the World Social Situation. 1957-. Quadrennial. (United Nations.)

State of the World’s Refugees. 1993- . Biennial. (Published by Oxford University Press for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.)

Trade


Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics. 1967-. Irregular. (Conference on Trade and Development.)

Handbook of World Mineral Trade Statistics. 1990/95-. Annual. (Conference on Trade and Development.)


Statistics of World Trade in Steel. 1960-. Annual. (Economic Commission for Europe.)


Transportation


Women

Arab Women: Trends, Statistics and Indicators. 1995- . Irregular. (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.)


World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. 1986- . Irregular. (United Nations.)

United Nations Treaties

Treaties and international agreements entered into by any Member State of the United Nations are to be registered with the Secretariat and then published in the United Nations Treaty Series. This series, which began in 1946, continues the League of Nations Treaty Series which dates back to 1921. The Consolidated Treaty Series, 1648-1918, edited by Clive Parry, Dobbs Ferry, NY, Oceana Publications, 1969-1981, is a compilation of earlier treaties. There are now over 2000 volumes in the UN Treaty Series, and cumulative indexes to every fifty volumes are issued. A time lag of several years exists between the date of registration of a treaty with the Secretariat and the subsequent publishing of the treaty in the Treaty Series.

The United Nations treaties are also available online in the United Nations Treaty Collection (http://untreaty.un.org/), a licensed Internet service available as an annual subscription from the United Nations Publications, Sales Section. The collection contains a number of databases, including:

United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS)

This contains the texts of over 40,000 bilateral and multilateral treaties and subsequent actions. The treaties are available in their authentic language(s), together with a translation into English and French, as appropriate. A basic search is available by title/keyword or popular name. An advanced search also includes a search by subject and participants.

Texts of Recently Deposited Multilateral Treaties

These are treaties recently deposited with the Secretary-General that have not yet been published in the UNTS.

Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General

This publication provides information on the status of over 500 major multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General. It covers subjects, such as disarmament, environment, human rights, refugees, and the law of the sea. The publication shows the status of these treaties, including the dates of signatures, ratification, accession and entry into force, the citation to the text of the treaty, and the text of the reservations and declarations. It is published annually in paper format as: Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General. ST/LEG/SER.E/- . The online version is updated daily and provides a link to the full text of the treaty in UNTS.

Photographs of Signature Ceremonies

This consists of photographs taken at signature ceremonies of selected multilateral treaties that have taken place in the Treaty Section at the UN since 1999.

Treaty Handbook

This handbook, prepared by the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, serves as a guide to the Secretary-General’s practice for multilateral treaties and his practice in relation to the registration and publication functions. It also includes a glossary of terms relating to treaty actions, such as accession, adoption, and entry into force. This handbook is also available in paper, as Treaty Handbook, New York, United Nations, 2001, Sales no. E.02.V.2.
Another source for the text of recent international treaties is *International Legal Materials*, published bimonthly by the American Society of International Law.

The series, *Statement of Treaties and International Agreements (Registered or Filed and Recorded with the Secretariat, ST/LEG/SER.A/-)*, issued monthly by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, lists the treaties which have been registered with the United Nations. In addition to the list of treaties and international agreements registered each month, the annexes of each issue contain ratifications, accessions and other subsequent action taken concerning the registered treaties and agreements. The monthly indexes to each issue have been cumulated annually since 1995.

The *World Treaty Index, 1900-1980*, by Peter H. Rohn (Santa Barbara, ABC-Clio Information Services, 1983-84. 5 v.) provides access by party, by keyword, and by date of signature. It covers treaties from the *League of Nations Treaty Series*, the *United Nations Treaty Series* and from various national treaty sources.

The United Nations Treaty Series volumes are also indexed in *AccessUN* by Newsbank/Readex; and in the *United Nations Master Treaty Index on CD-ROM*, edited by Igor Kavass, Buffalo, NY: William S. Hein and Co., 1995-.

Treaty sources issued by the United States government are: *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements*, S9.12/-, and the updating series, *Treaties and Other International Acts Series*, S9.10/-, issued by the U.S. Department of State. *Treaties in Force*, S9.14/-, published annually by the Department of State, serves as a broad subject and country index to treaties that are in force as of January 1 of each year. Recent treaty actions are listed in a special section in the *Foreign Policy Bulletin*, published by Kluwer Law International, Cambridge, MA.

The following sources help with research on environmental treaties:


Specialized Agencies and Other Autonomous Organizations Within the U.N. System: Catalogs and Indexes

The specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Trade Organization each have their own documentation. The primary access to these publications is through the various bibliographic tools issued by the individual agency. This list covers the recent indexes and catalogs, as well as some of the retrospective bibliographies. A more extensive bibliography can be found in: Information Systems of International Inter-governmental Organizations: A Reference Guide, by Robert V. Williams. Stanford, CT: Ablex, 1998.

The Index to International Statistics, 1983- , published by Congressional Information Service, indexes publications and documents of international governmental organizations for their statistical data. Some periodicals are included in its coverage. For historical coverage, the most comprehensive bibliography for the documents of these agencies up to and including 1962 is the United Nations Documents Index. Beginning with the 1963 issue, this index no longer included the documents of these autonomous organizations.


Food and Agriculture Organization


Special Indexes. Compilations of FAO publications and documents from 1945-1975 on individual topics, such as environment, food and nutrition, land reform, population and demography, which appeared earlier in FAO Documentation; Current Bibliography (Index).

International Atomic Energy Agency


**International Civil Aviation Organization**


**International Labour Organization**

*Catalogue of Publications in English of the ILO, 1919-1950*. Geneva, 1951. (Bibliographical Contributions, No. 5.)


*International Labour Documentation*. Geneva, 1965-. Issued monthly. Indexes publications received at the ILO Library at Geneva. Includes some ILO publications, technical reports, and periodical articles. Cumulations for 1965-1969, 1970-1971 and 1972-1976 have been published by G.K. Hall (Boston). This bibliography can be searched through a Dialog computer search under the name of its database, LABORDOC.


**International Maritime Organization**

International Monetary Fund


International Telecommunications Union


United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization


*Publications Catalogue*. Title varies. Issued annually. Sales publications only. Publications are also listed on the Web at http://upo.unesco.org/.


United Nations Industrial Development Organization

*Documents Lists: Cumulative List*. Vienna, 1967-. ID/SER.G./-. Kept up to date with annual supplements. Publications are also listed on the Web at http://www.unido.org/Publications.cfm.
Universal Postal Union


World Bank


PRE Working Papers: Catalog of Numbers 1-400. Washington, DC, 1990. Later updates to the catalog have been issued. These working papers are issued to disseminate the findings of the work in progress of the Bank in the areas of policy, planning and external affairs. Recent papers are listed in the World Bank Policy Research Bulletin.

Documents and Reports (previously known as World Development Sources (WDS). Online database of over 14,000 documents which have been made available to the public. These documents include country, economic and sector work, project documents, and research and working papers from the departments of the Bank. Available on the Web at http://www-wds.worldbank.org/.

World Health Organization


World Intellectual Property Organization


World Meteorological Organization


World Trade Organization

WTO publications are listed online at http://www.wto.org/.
Selected Web Sites

The following are Web sites of some of the principal United Nations bodies and related agencies. For additional sites, use the Official Web Site Locator for the United Nations System of Organization at: www.unsystem.org

United Nations

– Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Secretariat: www.wcmc.org.uk/cms
– Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat: www.biodiv.org
– Convention to Combat Desertification Secretariat: www.unccd.int/main.php
– Economic Commission for Africa: www.uneca.org
– Economic Commission for Europe: www.unece.org
– Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: www.eclac.org
– Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: www.unescap.org
– Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: www.escwa.org.lb
– International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: www.ictr.org
– International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia: www.un.org/icty/
– Ozone Treaties Secretariat: www.unep.org/ozone
– Regional Seas Conventions Secretariat: www.unep.ch/seas
– United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat: www.unfccc.de
– United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: www.unhchr.ch
– United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: www.unhcr.ch
– United Nations Institute for Training and Research: www.unitar.org
– United Nations International Drug Control Programme: www.undcp.org
– United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: www.un.org/instraw
– United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees: www.unrwa.org
– United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: www.unrisd.org
– United Nations University: www.unu.edu
– United Nations Volunteers: www.unv.org
– WomenWatch: www.un.org/womenwatch
– World Food Programme: www.wfp.org

Specialized and Related Agencies

– Food and Agriculture Organization: www.fao.org
– International Atomic Energy Agency: www.iaea.org
– International Civil Aviation Organization: www.icao.int
– International Fund for Agricultural Development: www.ifad.org
– International Labour Organizations: www.ilo.org
– International Maritime Organization: www.imo.org
– International Monetary Fund: www.imf.int
– International Telecommunication Union: www.itu.int
– International Atomic Energy Agency: www.iaea.org
– Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons: www.opcw.org
– Universal Postal Union: www.upu.int
– World Health Organization: www.who.int
– World Meteorological Organization: www.wmo.ch
– World Tourism Organization: www.world-tourism.org
– World Trade Organization: www.wto.org

Additional Sites


– United Nations Information Center: www.unicwash.org/main1.htm


– United Nations Scholars Workstation at Yale University: www.library.yale.edu/un
APPENDIX 1: GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS AND VOTING RECORDS

To find texts of resolutions:

- Resolutions can be found in the mimeographed (mast-head) documents under the document symbol, A/RES/Session/[resolution number]. During the time the General Assembly is in session, new resolutions will come in at various times in the depository shipments along with other documents and publications. Resolutions are also in the Readex microfiche collection. They are available online on the UN Web site at http://www.un.org/documents/resga.htm, in the Official Document Service (ODS), and in AccessUN.

- Resolutions and decisions of a completed session can be found in the press release edition, Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly during its [no.] Session. The first part covers the session from September to December and is usually published in late January. Additional parts for resumed and special sessions are issued at a later date. This press release edition contains a subject index to the resolutions and decisions. It also gives the date of adoption, plenary meeting in which it was adopted, voting information, and document number of the committee report. This press release has been sent to depository libraries since 1981. A recent edition of the press release is on the UN Web page for resolutions, http://www.un.org/documents/resga.htm.

- Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly during its [no.] Session, 1946- . Issued as the last supplement to the General Assembly Official Records.


- Draft resolutions are issued as "limited" documents and are not distributed to depository libraries. They can sometimes be found in the documents of the appropriate committee dealing with the topic. Limited documents are in the Readex microfiche collection, and are available online in the Official Document System (ODS).

To find voting information:

- Voting records section of UNBISnet contains voting records for all resolutions which were adopted by roll call or recorded vote, or without a vote by the General Assembly since the 38th session, 1983. Searching can be done by keyword or by resolution symbol.
“Voting Chart of Resolutions Adopted by Recorded or Roll-Call Vote,” 30th session, 1975-. This chart is found in the Index to Proceedings of the General Assembly, issued by the UN Dag Hammarskjold Library, ST/LIB/SER.B/A.-, since the 30th session, 1975. At first appearing in the annex at the end of each annual volume, it is now located at the end of Part I: Subject Index. The chart covers only those resolutions and decisions which were adopted in plenary session by recorded or roll-call vote. Information about other resolutions can be obtained by looking in the “List of Resolutions”, which appears in the Index to Proceedings just before the voting chart. This list of all resolutions has been printed in the Index to Proceedings since the 40th session, 1985/86. Prior to that, information on resolutions could be obtained by looking in the subject index of the Index to Proceedings under the heading, “General Assembly—Resolutions and Decisions.” Resolutions are also referred to in the subject index under the appropriate topic.

Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly, the press release edition described above in No. 2 (Texts of Resolutions) gives the recorded vote after the text of the resolution. It also shows those resolutions that are adopted without a recorded vote. A recent edition is available on the UN Web page for resolutions, http://www.un.org/documents/resga.htm.

Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly during its [no.] Session, 1946-. Issued as the last supplement to the General Assembly Official Records. Beginning with the 54th session, 1999-, this compilation summarizes voting information at the beginning of the text of each resolution, showing if it was adopted without a vote or by a recorded vote. The recorded votes by resolution number are given in an annex.


Yearbook of the United Nations, by the UN Department of Public Information. New York: United Nations, 1946/47-. Issued annually. Documentary references at the end of each section provide resolution numbers for many resolutions, and often the text is provided. Roll-call votes are sometimes included, but more often it is just a summary of the vote.

UN Chronicle, by the UN Department of Public Information. New York: United Nations, 1964-. Issued quarterly. Text of selected resolutions may be reprinted and total vote given. Seldom gives the voting by country.

Report to Congress on Voting Practices in the United Nations. Washington, D.C., Department of State (United States), 1984-. S1.1/8:[year]. Shows the voting by country on several key issues of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and the voting coincidence of each country; how often it voted with the United States.
The Meeting records of the General Assembly are the primary source for finding the voting records. When the above reference sources do not help, the appropriate meeting record will have to be searched to find the action taken. The plenary meeting number is given at the end of the resolution. The Index to Proceedings of the General Assembly can also be used to find the necessary meeting number. The document number for meetings is: A/[Session]/PV. [meeting number]. Older years of meeting records are found in the General Assembly Official Records.
APPENDIX 2:  
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND VOTING RECORDS

To Find Texts of Resolutions:

− Security Council resolutions are found in the mimeographed (mast-head) documents under the document series symbol, S/RES/[resolution number]. At the end of each session, they are published in the Resolutions and Decisions volume of the Security Council Official Records. A volume has been issued for each session since 1946. They are also listed in the annual press edition, Resolutions and Statements of the Security Council, 1994-. New York, United Nations, Department of Public Information. They can also be found on the UN Web site at http://www.un.org/documents/scres/htm, in the Official Document Service (ODS), in AccessUN, and in the Readex microfiche collection.

− Draft resolutions are issued as part of the Security Council documents under the symbol, S/Year/[no.]. The Index to Proceedings of the Security Council, issued by the UN Dag Hammarskjold Library, ST/LIB/SER.B/S.-, issued since the 19th session, 1964, lists the draft resolutions under each subject. They can also be searched in UNBISnet with a keyword search and using the “type of material” category, b02. Once the document numbers have been obtained from the index, the draft resolutions can be found in the mimeographed documents, the Readex microfiche, ODS, and on the UN Web site. From 1976 to 1982 draft resolutions, which were vetoed, were also listed in the index under the heading, “Security Council: Voting: Veto.” Beginning with 1983, the heading was changed to “U.N. Security Council—Veto.”


To Find Voting Records:

− Voting records section of UNBISnet. This gives the voting information on all resolutions which were adopted from 1946 to the present.

− “Voting Chart of Resolutions Adopted by the Security Council,” published in back of the Index to Proceedings of the Security Council since the 31st session, 1976, gives the votes for resolutions which were adopted.

− The Resolutions and Decisions volume of the Security Council Official Records for each session gives the vote at the end of each resolution. This volume is available since 1946.

− The Resolutions and Statements of the Security Council (Press edition) 1994-. 

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If a resolution is too recent to be included in the latest available voting chart of the *Index to Proceedings*, or in the resolutions volume of the *Security Council Official Records*, then the provisional verbatim meeting records should be checked for voting information. To do this:

a. Find the resolution in the mimeographed documents under S/RES/[resolution number]. The meeting number at which it was adopted will be given in the heading (title) of the resolution.

b. Use this number to find the appropriate provisional verbatim meeting record in the mimeographed documents under S/PV[meeting number]. Look through the meeting record until the vote on the resolution is found. These meeting records are not sent to depository libraries. They can be found online in ODS. They are also found in the Readex microfiche.

Recent draft resolutions are issued as Security Council documents, S/Year/[no.]. To find voting information on those not adopted, the current meeting records will have to be searched to find when they were discussed. The agenda is given toward the beginning of each meeting record. The agenda for each meeting is also issued as a one-page document under the document number, S/Agenda/[meeting number]. The agendas are received by depository libraries about a month after they have been issued. Draft resolutions may also be mentioned in the *UN Chronicle*.


Arranged by broad category, this volume describes the Security Council action on each veto. An explanation of the veto as well as subsequent action taken are also provided. Appendices contain a chronological list of vetoes, a list of resolutions adopted from 1946-1990 and membership of the Security Council during this time period.
APPENDIX 3: SPEECHES

Speeches delivered before the United Nations are eventually printed as part of the Official Records of the various organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council.

The meeting records of the General Assembly plenary session and its Main Committees are distributed to depository libraries as soon as they are issued as part of the mimeographed (mast-head) documents and will be arranged by document symbol. A corrigendum for the plenary and for each committee's meetings is prepared after a session is completed giving corrected statements for individual meetings. The corrigendum should be referred to as one is reading the meeting records. After a session is completed, the meetings of the plenary and of each committee can be bound with the corrigendum and shelved as part of the Official Records of the General Assembly. The Plenary and the First Committee meetings are verbatim. The Second through the Sixth Committees have summary records. The Special Political Committee primarily has summary records with a few meetings that are verbatim. The document numbers for the plenary and committee meetings are given in Appendix 4.

The verbatim records for the latest two sessions are also placed on the UN Web site at http://www.un.org/documents. These meeting records can also be found online by using the Official Document Service (ODS) from 1993 to the present. The verbatim records are also available in the Readex microfiche collection. AccessUN also includes the texts of meetings in which a vote was taken.

The Security Council meeting records also have verbatim coverage. They are first issued in a provisional form, which are not sent to depository libraries. A final corrected form is issued much later to be bound with the Official Records. Both the provisional and the final meeting records have the same document series symbol: S/PV.[meeting number]. These meeting records can be found online since 1993 by using ODS. They can also be found in the Readex microfiche collection.

The Economic and Social Council has only summary records. The current ones are not sent to depository libraries. They can be found online by using the Official Document System (ODS). They will sometimes appear in French first and later be translated into English. The Readex microfiche has some of these summary records in its collection. Depository libraries have to wait for the summary meeting records volume which is distributed as part of the Official Records.

The citations to speeches for these organs can be found online by using the “Indexes to Speeches” section of UNBISnet. This covers speeches from 1983 to the present. They are also are indexed in the Index to Proceedings series issued by the UN Dag Hammarskjold Library:

Index to Proceedings of the General Assembly, 5th session, 1950/51- . ST/LIB/SER.B/A-. 

Index to Proceedings of the Economic and Social Council, 14th session, 1952- . ST/LIB/SER.B/E-. 


Earlier years of this index were published under the title, Disposition of Agenda Items.

Part II of these Index to Proceedings volumes contains the "Index to Speeches." It is divided into three sections: corporate names/countries, speakers, and subjects. The speeches are arranged by subject under the country and speaker sections. References to the speeches are given by document number. The speeches can
then be found in the current mimeographed documents, or if they are older, in the Official Records of the appropriate body, online through ODS, or in the Readex microfiche collection.

In the “Subjects” section of the “Index to Speeches,” the country or corporate body that spoke will be listed under each subject, and the speaker and document number of the speech will be given.
APPENDIX 4: IMPORTANT DOCUMENT SERIES SYMBOLS FOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS SESSIONS

A/Session/[no.] General Assembly documents
A/Session/PV.[no.] Verbatim meeting records of the plenary session of the General Assembly
A/C.1/Session/[no.] First committee (political and security) documents
A/C.1/Session/PV.[no.] First committee verbatim meeting records
A/C.2/Session/[no.] Second committee (economic and financial) documents
A/C.2/Session/SR.[no.] Second committee summary meeting records
A/C.3/Session/[no.] Third committee (social, humanitarian and cultural) documents
A/C.3/Session/SR.[no.] Third committee summary meeting records
A/C.4/Session/[no.] Fourth committee (decolonization) documents
A/C.4/Session/SR.[no.] Fourth committee summary meeting records
A/C.5/Session/[no.] Fifth committee (administrative and budgetary) documents
A/C.5/Session/SR.[no.] Fifth committee summary meeting records
A/C.6/Session/[no.] Sixth committee (legal) documents
A/C.6/Session/SR.[no.] Sixth committee summary meeting records
A/SPC/Session/[no.] Special political committee documents
A/SPC/Session/SR.[no.] or PV[no.] Special political committee summary meeting records or verbatim records
A/AC.96/- High Commissioner for Refugees
A/CN.4/- International Law Commission
A/CN.9/- Commission on International Trade Law
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>A/CONF.166/-</td>
<td>World Summit for Social Development, 1995, Copenhagen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/RES/Session/[no.]</td>
<td>General Assembly resolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAAS/-</td>
<td>International Convention against Apartheid in Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT/-</td>
<td>Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCPR/-</td>
<td>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD/-</td>
<td>Conference on Disarmament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW/-</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CERD/C/-</td>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC/C/-</td>
<td>Committee on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP/-</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/Year/[no.]</td>
<td>Economic and Social Council documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/Year/SR.[no.]</td>
<td>Economic and Social Council summary meeting records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/Year/C.1/[no.]</td>
<td>First committee (economic) documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/Year/C.2/[no.]</td>
<td>Second committee (social) documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/Year/C.3/[no.]</td>
<td>Third committee (programme and co-ordination) documents</td>
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<tr>
<td>E/C.7/-</td>
<td>Committee on Natural Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>E/C.10/-</td>
<td>Commission on Transnational Corporations</td>
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<td>E/CN.4/-</td>
<td>Commission of Human Rights</td>
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<th>Code</th>
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<td>E/CN.4/Sub.2/-</td>
<td>Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/CN.5/-</td>
<td>Commission on Social Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/CN.6/-</td>
<td>Commission on the Status of Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/CN.7/-</td>
<td>Commission on Narcotic Drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/ICEF/-</td>
<td>United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/RES/Year/[no.]</td>
<td>Economic and Social Council resolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCCC/-</td>
<td>Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/Year/[no.]</td>
<td>Security Council documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/PV.[no.]</td>
<td>Security Council verbatim meeting records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/RES/[no.]</td>
<td>Security Council resolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TD/-</td>
<td>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP/-</td>
<td>United Nations environment programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFC/-</td>
<td>World Food Council</td>
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APPENDIX 5: USEFUL PUBLICATIONS FOR MODEL UN SESSIONS

Annotated Preliminary List of Items to be Included in the Provisional Agenda of the [session number] Regular Session of the General Assembly. A/Session/100.

This annual document describes each agenda item to be considered in the forthcoming plenary session and in the meetings of the Main Committees. It provides a history of each item, giving the Article of the Charter or the resolution that calls for the item to be considered at this session, as well as a summary of the action taken on the item at the last session and earlier major action. References to important documents and meeting records from the previous session are given. This document is issued on June 15 of each year and is assigned the document symbol, A/Session/100. It is almost 500 pages in length. An addendum is issued at the opening of the session.


Appearing annually, this reference volume describes the topics which will be discussed in the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. In addition to listing UN documentary references, it cites New York Times and other newspaper and periodical references. It is arranged by broad topic.


This online service of the Dag Hammaskjold Library provides an annotated list of important documents recently released. The documents are available in two categories: document citations sorted by release date, and document citations sorted by UN document symbol. A link is made to the full text of the document. Citations remain on the site for two months.

Permanent Missions to the United Nations, by the Protocol and Liaison Service. ST/SG/SER.A/- .

Issued semi-annually. Part one is a list of member states maintaining permanent missions at Headquarters, giving the name of the UN Ambassador and several members of each mission, the address and telephone and fax numbers of the mission, and the national holiday. Specialized agencies, other organizations and non-member states maintaining permanent observer missions or offices at Headquarters are also included. Part two lists the members of the principal organs of the United Nations. Part three lists national holidays. This publication is not sent to depository libraries. A library must subscribe to it from the UN Sales Section.

Press Releases

The press releases of the United Nations are an excellent source of information on current topics and meetings. They appear before any of the official documents are issued. In many cases the press release of a particular meeting is the only source providing information about the discussions held. The full texts of press releases from October 1995 onwards appear on the UN Web site: http://www.un.org/News/. Press releases were never distributed to depository libraries. The symbol of the press release consists of a letter/number combination. The letter code refers to either the topic of the press release or the body about which the press release reports. The number is a sequential number assigned to each press release.
From this site, the latest press releases can be selected, or the archived issues back to October 13, 1995 can be selected. Searching can be done by keyword, symbol, or subject. A full text search is also available. A list of the press release symbols is found online in the *United Nations Documentation: Research Guide* at http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/press1.htm, under the heading, “Press Release Series Symbols: Index.”

*Yearbook of the United Nations*, by the UN Department of Public Information.

An excellent reference tool covering in Part One the main activities of the United Nations arranged by broad category. It summarizes the meetings and gives many documentary references. It includes the "Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization," as well as the texts and voting information of many resolutions. Part two describes the work of the international governmental organizations related to the United Nations. It contains a subject index, index of names and index of resolutions and decisions.
Guide to the issuance of UN travel documents. 3. UNITED NATIONS. Goodwill Ambassadors, Messengers of Peace, consultants of United Nations organizations and Funds and Programmes, experts, individual and institutional contractors. However, if they meet eligibility criteria as set out in section II) A., they may be issued a United Nations Certificate. C) Types of Laissez-Passer. 8. There are two types of Laissez-Passer as defined by the colour of their covers: Red or Blue.